

HAND-PICKED NEGRO LEADERS

Negro citizens of North Carolina are neither disappointed nor surprised at Governor Hodges' reappointment of Dr. Harold Trigg, now a resident of New York, to the State Board of Education. Trigg is exactly what the doctor ordered and more nearly fits the Hodges' philosophy or pattern. Since being on the board he has doubtlessly impressed both the governor and other members of his ability to say nothing, hear nothing, and see nothing that is wrong with the treatment of Negro citizens in North Carolina. Such Negroes, previously referred to by this newspaper as "Three Monkey Negroes," are always looked upon as most valuable when the chips are down in the struggle to uphold white supremacy. That he got the appointment from Hodges in preference to a leader who has the respect and confidence of Negro citizens of the state is, therefore, no surprise.

One thing is certain, Negro citizens are not being misled into believing that they have representation on the State Board of Education. They know that Trigg will hear nothing, see nothing, and say nothing that will lessen his unenvied position as the perennial man Friday of every North Carolina Governor for the past 25 years or more.

Therefore, the attempt to hand-pick and ram him down the throats of the more than one million Negroes of this state, by placing him in a position of leadership, will get nowhere.

The day has long since gone when Negroes will rubber-stamp a gubernatorial appointee of their race solely because he has been hand-picked by the state's chief executive. Whether he is on the State Board of Education, the state Prison Farm, or on the County Chain Gang, Negroes will repudiate any and all aspirants for leadership who are unwilling to stand up and be counted as advocates of a full measure of American citizenship without regard to race, creed, or color.

That is why, in spite of his being actually domiciled in New York and having a token residence in North Carolina, Gov. Hodges reappointed Trigg to the State Board of Education. Another apparent reason is that the governor probably has found it hard to get a respectable Negro of stature to accept the position. A Hodges appointment here-of-late carries with it such a stigma that it no longer is desired by any Negro who wishes the respect of his people. Even if one could be found, Governor Hodges probably felt the risk was too great to swap Uncle Toms in the middle of the stream, or to be more exact, in the middle of his administration.

CONGRESSIONAL SKUNKS FROM THE SOUTH

Since the founding of this nation and dating back almost to the setting up of the United States Senate and its House of Representatives, there have been skunks in its Congress who, by words or deeds, have dragged before the eyes and noses of the people of this country filth and stench. That a majority of them have come from the South is by no means accidental but a natural consequence of what happens when public office can only be achieved by an appeal to prejudice, hatred and bitterness rather than an appeal to reason on issues of public interest.

Sam Blease, Tillman, Heflin, "Cotton" Ed Butler, Benjamin Talmadge, Bilbo, Willis Smith and now North Carolina's Senator Sam J. Ervin are only part of a long list of southern congressional skunks who have left their dirty marks upon the pages of southern congressional history. What such men failed to contribute in originating or helping to enact progressive legislation, they left no stone unturned in contributing to and perpetuating race hatred.

As far as we have been able to determine, no single piece of legislation bears the name of even one of them. The only evidence they left of their presence in Congress was how they reacted when an attempt was made to pass civil rights legislation on behalf of American Negroes. It was then and only then that such men have been found in the forefront of congressional action.

The recent escapades of North Carolina's Senator Ervin, therefore, follow the pattern of his predecessors and should guarantee his reelection to the U. S. Senate should he choose to run for that office again. It is sad, but true, that the easiest way to get elected to public office in the South is to possess an aggravated case of mental constipation and frequent vomiting spells of verbal race hatred.

Thinking citizens of North Carolina will need to look behind the scenes of Ervin's most recent attempts to block civil rights legislation and his contemporary claim that all of his life he has "been a friend to the Negro race." They will need to look further into his statement that he is only interested in preserving in this nation that "our government should be a government by law and not a government by men—a government in which laws should have authority over men, not men over laws. That our courts should

administer equal and exact justice in compliance with certain and uniform laws applying in like manner to all men in like situations."

In this instance, Ervin argues government by law and not by men, but when the U. S. Supreme Court ruled that segregation in public schools was unlawful, Senator Ervin and other southern congressmen screamed to high heaven that the law had no foundation unless it had the sympathetic support of the masses and urged them to defy it.

Then, he and other southerners didn't argue that desegregation was not the law of the land because they knew that course was futile. They argued instead that the law was based on the consent of all the people of the United States but not of the southern United States, therefore they argued that the South could not accept the law because they didn't like it, and that the likes and dislikes of the people had to be taken into account by all laws.

Today, we find Senator Ervin in a reversed role in opposing civil rights legislation now before Congress. Now he is yelling loud and long that the law is absolute and is constant, regardless of how men may feel about it. He contends for positive values of the law, values that are absolute and not swayed by men. Yet, he, himself, following the established sophistry of the law, uses the same reasoning to argue on both sides of a question.

Behind the cloak of his pretended anxiety for the right of trial by jury is Senator Ervin's desire to defend at all cost white supremacy, a system in the South under which Negroes for years were prohibited from serving on juries, voting and exercising other fundamental rights as citizens. Even now in many sections of the South they do not have these rights. It is this system that Senator Ervin wishes to preserve and not that of the right of trial by jury and other basic rights of democracy.

So, Senator Ervin takes his place beside other political bigots of the South. His role at present is plainly that of leader of the opposition against civil rights legislation and not that of a defender of the democratic form of government as he would have the American people believe. We view him with the same contempt as that of any other congressional skunk.

A. H. GORDON'S



Dr. Gordon

Facing The Issue THAT BOGUS BUDGET

Perhaps the most important issue the American people should face up to at the present time is that colossal budget which the national administration is trying to impose upon the already overburdened tax-payers of this country. The main argument used by the politicians, led by the President, is the specious one that the major part of this astronomical amount of something like seventy two billion dollars is necessary for the "defense" of our country and the protection of our "friends."

It is remarkable how easily the politicians have fooled the vast majority of the people of the United States that this big falsehood is true. Because the people largely accept this false assertion that our present policy of "defending" our country by establishing military bases all around the vast Russian empire and maintaining a vast conscript army here at home is the only way to maintain peace, they are content to have Congress try to whittle away comparatively insignificant amounts from this vast and criminal waste by the present administration.

BRINK OF WAR

Nobody challenges the assertion of Secretary Dulles that roaming around the world on "the brink of war" is the reason why we have a kind of peace called the "cold war." Nobody seems to realize that the fact is that we have a kind of uneasy peace in the world today not because of this policy of "bluff and blunder," but in spite of this foolishness.

Most of our citizens seem to have missed the point of England's decision to stop drafting men in the army, destroy or sell her battleships and work for peace through peaceful cooperation with the other nations of the world. England, with characteristic wisdom, has said by her actions that she no longer believes that her security depends upon military force.

A policy of walking "on the brink of war," says Great Britain, "seems to us to be foolish and futile but since you, Uncle Sam, seem to believe you can defend in that way we are willing to have you risk your life by trying to defend us in the same way. But you, Uncle Sam, will, of course, have to pay for all this criminal foolishness."

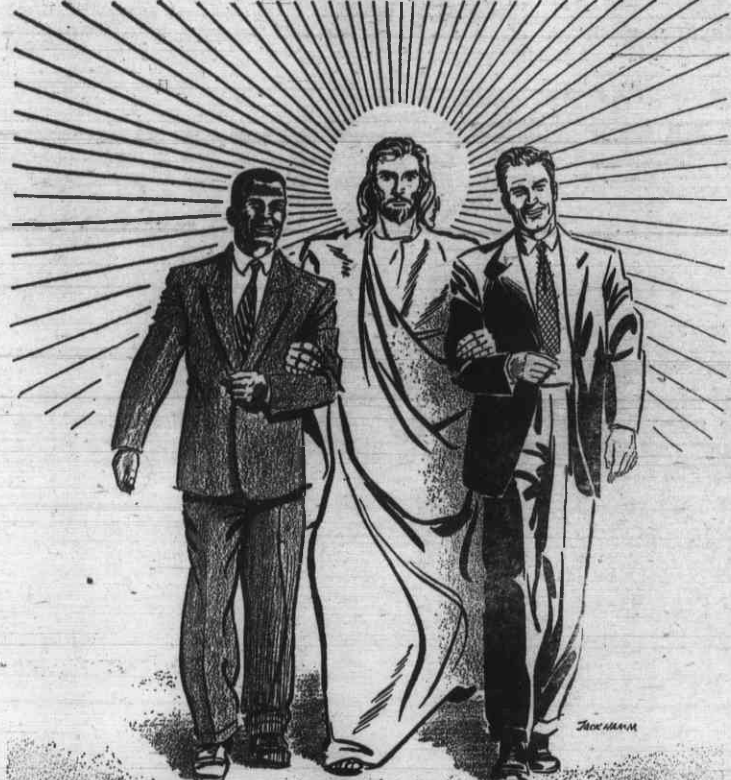
WISE WOULD SAY

If we had wise leadership in top positions in our country at this critical time in history, they would say to England something like this:

"Since you are closer to Russia and so more exposed to possible attack and still are convinced that it is safe for you to do away with your army and battleships we will do the same, taking less risk than you do. If you wish us to help you we will do so through the United Nations." Thus the United States could reduce the present proposed budget by about ten or fifteen billion dollars instead of the few millions that we are chopping off here and there at the expense of essential services to our citizens.

All of the billions that we are giving to foreign nations for military aid could then be deducted from our foolish and futile military budget and a large part of it could be given to the United Nations so that the United Nations could develop a real and powerful world-police force capable of making Russia, England, France and the U.S. to police the world is not only an unnecessary expense upon overburdened American tax payers but it is futile and criminal waste leading toward war rather than in the direction of peace. The U. S. is not economically able nor morally fit to set itself up as (continued on page 7)

BROTHERS IN CHRIST



"BE KINDLY AFFECTIONED ONE TO ANOTHER WITH BROTHERLY LOVE; IN HONOUR PREFERRING ONE ANOTHER." — ROM. 12:10

Disintegration Of A Community

By SEPTIMA CLARK

Editor's Note: This is the first in a series of installments of the story of first attempts to desegregate the schools in Clinton, Tenn. The writer is Mrs. Septima Clark, former southern school teacher who was forced to give up a public school career because of her outspoken advocacy of full citizenship for Negroes. Mrs. Clark is presently a workshop director at Highlander Folk school in Monteagle, Tenn.

This is the story about the disintegration of a community. It is a story of hate and fear, lawlessness and violence. It is a story of how a small average American community has returned to darker days when might was justice and every citizen was forced to be his own policeman.

This is a story of how the deep blood stained roots of prejudice unleashed a force that grows with malignant violence. The door to the cesspool of hate and prejudice opens easily and is difficult to close and none are safe from the smell.

This is a long story; for it all began more than a decade ago when a Negro family asked for their rights as American citizens. On December 5, 1950 Mr. and Mrs. McSwain asked that their children be permitted to attend the public schools in Clinton, schools supported by Negro tax money, schools being defended by Negroes on foreign battle fields. The McSwains were denied their rights six years ago but a decade and two wars—wars that cost many Negro lives—make a difference. In 1954 the United States Supreme Court ruled that public school segregation was unconstitutional.

By this time Negro children at Clinton had a high school to attend but it was located a long bus ride away in Knoxville.

Again the Negroes asked for their rights and on January 4, 1956 Federal District Judge Robert L. Taylor ordered integration in Clinton High School. Some Southerners, nearly a hundred years from slavery, were still pleading for time but the school doors at Clinton, Tennessee opened with little fanfare outside the local area.

White children grumbled, perhaps, about the opening of school, but accepted the Negro students, electing some to school office. For the moment it looked as if Clinton might become an outstanding example of democracy in the South for all to see and follow.

Into this arena of social progress came a man called Kasper, jackal of prejudice and hate, a man who lives by his well oiled ability to produce strife.

Kasper went unmolested through the town of Clinton preaching violence and lawlessness.

"I've been interested all my life in the purity of the races." "I believe the white race is the great race and the only race which, has fought for free institutions."

"I denounce anti-Semitism as unscientific."

"I do not hate Negroes but I believe that they should be in separate institutions." "The Supreme Court (school decision) is precisely fraudulent."

"Force is being exercised. Woe to those whose only right is their power. The wild grass will grow over their dead bodies."

Kasper whipped his mob of former gun thugs and juvenile vandals into a fever pitch that ended in wild rioting and only accidentally did not result in serious injury and death for many.

The slow, politically frightened state government finally moved in with the National Guard to corral the mob and slap a sedition charge against Kasper.

Kasper was also cited for contempt by Federal Judge Taylor. The guard dispersed the mob but the plea for violence continued to be heard in public utterances by Kasper.

which Secretary of the Treasury Humphrey headed until he came to Washington, rose 25 per cent last year. Common stock now sells at \$6.31 compared to \$4.96 a year ago. The company mines iron ore.

Spiritual Insight

"RIDE ON, KING JESUS"

By REVEREND HAROLD BOLAND
Pastor, Mount Gilead Baptist Church



They that went before...they that followed cried, Hosanna, blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord...Mark 11:9,10.

RIDE ON, KING JESUS

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of the end of the noble life of Christ, the Son of God. Yes, it is the beginning of the end of the noblest life lived among us sinful mortals. It begins passion week. Christ begins the final few steps in the path of the cross. And this path taken after the Baptism had become increasingly a way of hurts, rejection, criticism, opposition and suffering. He knew long since that he was walking the agonizing way of the cross. Thus, Jesus rides triumphantly amid the much-deserved, joyous acclaim of the vast multitudes. He comes riding humbly into the Holy City.

He did not come in pride, arrogance and showmanship, but he rode in the humble dignity befitting the Holy Son of God. He did not come with his hands stained with the blood of men. But he came in love and compassion. He did not come as a violent warrior, but as a man of peace. Jesus came riding as an Eternal King of everlasting Kingdom of Righteousness. You remember Daniel had seen a righteous, eternal king arising above the fading and perishable kingdoms of this world. Yes, we see the King of righteousness riding into the Holy City. He rides amid the host of angels, the joy of the crowd. Look at the multitude! They are wild with joy over him who had been among them teaching, preaching and healing. They throw garments in the way. They wave palm branches with shouts of joy. "Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord."

Ride on Jesus, ride on, O, Redeeming King, ride on. Ride on, O King of righteousness and peace and salvation. Ride on to redeem our souls and for the healing of nations.

As Jesus rides into the Holy City, the inquiry goes up: "Who is this?" He rides in the beauty of holiness. He rides on clothed in the wonder and majesty of love. Some who knew him not as healer, teacher, preacher of God's redeeming love ask: "Who is this?" Thank God that some knew him. Some knew him as the "Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world." Blind Bartimaeus could have said he gave me sight. The woman at the well could have said he, in turn, washed my corrupt life. Matthew could have said he changed my greed into love. Yes, there are always some who know him and can speak for him.

The enemy prepares a Cross, ride on Jesus, so called friends forsake and betray you, ride on. You will be thorn-crowned and nailed to a Cross. But ride on, O, Conquering King of Righteousness for a world lost in sin needs your redeeming love. Ride on, Jesus, to conquer our enemies—Sin and Death.

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